

Report proposes abolishing INS

Lawmakers to consider recommendation for structural changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Frustrated by persistent troubles within the nation's immigration service, key members of Congress are eyeing with interest a recommendation to abolish the agency and split its functions among other departments.

The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, in a report due Sept. 30, will recommend terminating the Immigration and Naturalization Service, saying it suffers from "mission overload."

The commission, in a draft report obtained by The New York Times, proposes allowing the INS' parent, the Justice Department, to retain responsibility for controlling the border and removing undocumented immigrants.

The State Department would take over the citizenship process and other immigration benefits, and the Labor Department would regulate foreign workers.

While proposals to split the INS into separate enforcement and service agencies have swirled for decades, the commission's recommendation is being carefully eyed on Capitol Hill by both allies and critics of the agency.

"The INS carries out two conflicting functions: Preventing bad immigration and expediting good immigration," Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich., said Tuesday. "It's my view that there is a serious question whether we should have a single agency charged with catching criminals, keeping out illegals while at the same time letting in relatives, skilled workers, true refugees."

Abraham, who chairs the Senate immigration subcommittee, promised a "thorough review" by his panel of the commission's recommendations.

A spokesperson for Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the top

Democrat on the immigration panel, said her boss also wants to study the proposal.

"Sen. Kennedy recognizes that there are problems to be fixed at INS," said spokeswoman Kathy McKiernan. "But he also acknowledges the strides the agency has made."

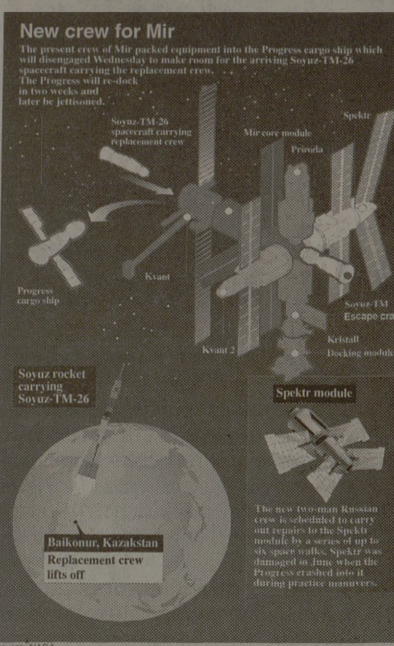
In the House, where INS criticism has been more strident, appropriators included language in a 1998 spending bill that calls on the Clinton administration to transfer some immigration functions to other agencies. The committee, which helped double the INS budget over four years, said it "will no longer look favorably on requests that simply add resources to the current overloaded system."

"Major structural change is needed in the management of the immigration system," the appropriators said, calling for a restructuring plan by 1999.



Cable Guy Jerry Webb, a TCA cable construction worker, hooks up fiber optic cables in front of Corps dorms Tuesday. The cables will improve modem operations on campus.

Replacement crew blasts off for Mir



BAIKONUR, Kazakstan (AP) — A two-man Russian crew blasted off for the Mir on Tuesday, the future of the aging station — and perhaps Russia's manned space program — riding on the outcome of their in-orbit repairs.

But Tuesday's smooth, spectacular launch was upstaged by another breakdown — this time of the Mir's oxygen generators.

Even as the giant Soyuz booster rocket streaked skyward from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, turning the twilight sky over Central Asia bright orange, the current Mir crew was using oxygen canisters for a second straight day as they worked to fix the breakdown.

Russian and U.S. officials played down the seriousness of the latest trouble, which they said has been an off-and-on problem for the past week.

"Nothing terrible has happened

at our station," Russian Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov said at the space monitoring center outside Moscow. "The crew is not suffocating, and the oxygen level is normal."

But the trouble drew unwanted attention to the Mir's constant need for repairs and underscored the difficulties the new crew faces in trying to fix them.

Since June 25, when a cargo supply ship bashed at least one hole in the Mir during docking practice, the station has been operating at about half-power.

If the newly launched cosmonauts can't manage tough repairs to reconnect cables, the Russians may have to abandon Mir — the last jewel in their once-mighty space program and a valuable learning tool for guest astronauts from the United States and elsewhere.

Teen's shopping scam ends with court date

HOUSTON (AP) — An illegal shopping spree is over for a 17-year-old high-school graduate who wrote worthless checks to net himself a Corvette, a BMW and a three-month stay in Ireland, authorities say.

Brandon Sample was in jail on theft charges Tuesday after an indictment was returned last week, says prosecutor John Boone.

The 1997 Memorial High School graduate's scheme seemed to work at first, but like most check-kiting schemes, the shortsightedness of the plan eventually led to his getting caught, Boone said.

According to Boone, Sample celebrated his 17th birthday last October by opening four accounts at two banks. He then wrote checks from one account to another to cover expenses, Boone said.

Apparently, Sample used the lag time between the time he wrote the check and the time it clear the bank to spend lavishly.

In the first month, Sample cashed \$12,000 before the banks caught on and closed the accounts, Boone said.

Last Dec. 4, Sample went to a Chevrolet dealer with his father and bought a \$40,000 Corvette. He told his father he had money from stock investments.

Pitt's lawyer discounts news value of nude pics

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nudes of Brad Pitt are not news, his lawyer says.

John Lavelly, the actor's attorney, made that argument in court Tuesday in the actor's push to ban the sale of a Playgirl magazine that carries two-year-old nude photos of him with then-girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow.



"There is no newsworthiness to these photos," Lavelly said. "It was simply an attempt to use them to sell magazines."

Superior Court Judge Robert O'Brien left his temporary restraining order in effect until he can study papers filed by lawyers for Pitt and the magazine and decide whether to make the order permanent.

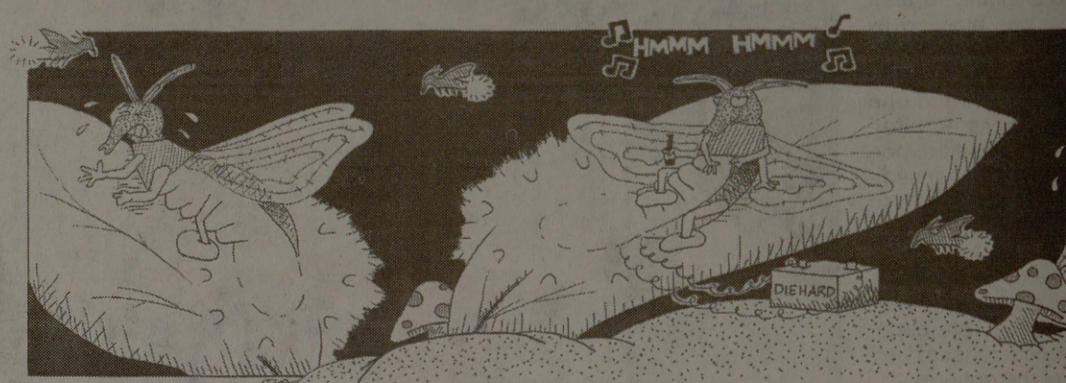
Pitt, who is shooting a movie in New York, was not in court for the brief hearing, but Lavelly said his client is committed to going forward with a trial.

"He's just trying to stand up for his right of privacy and to prevent the commercial use of his image and likeness," he said.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Thunderstorms High: 92° Low: 73°	Partly Cloudy High: 95° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 94° Low: 75°

Sketch



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Men's 10K	\$301.00	14K	\$409.00
Women's 10K	\$174.00	14K	\$200.00

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THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall spring semester and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.